

IT was about 11:00 pm when we started to fly our 1st phase of sockline. The helicopter flew to our sand site and we proceeded to hook up his long line to the bottom drum of 3 drum puller. We communicated that we were hooked up and Howard proceeded to move. The drum started rolling and we went to flying sock line. Howard flew the east phase in with no problems and everything went smooth for entire east phase. Howard went to re fuel before starting middle phase. Once re fueled he flew to sand site and picked up needle then we attached middle drum sock line to needle. Howard started flying middle sock line threading needle thru towers with no problems. Howard had to re fuel after about 8 structures. After refueling we started again and then we had a tripped pac man at str 38 so Howard hung the needle and went back to L2 until we could get wire crew to str 38 to re set pac man. Once pac man was reset Howard came and hooked up to needle and threaded str 38. We were rolling smooth and then I heard Adam guiding Howard to get sockline into our guard booms. Once Howard got sockline into guard booms he communicated to me that he was slowing approaching str 39. Then all the sudden I heard some yelling over radio that I couldn't make out and then it got quiet. I didn't hear anything over the radio until Adam came over radio to call EMS. It stayed up on three drum until it

communicated to me that the helicopter had went down.

3-16-2017

Fodd Flickenger

[REDACTED]

About 3:40 yesterday Mar 14, source aircraft was straining cockpit line between str. 30 - 41, east phase was already installed, and he was working on the middle phase using the needle to pass through the window. As he started to pass the needle on str. 39 something caused him to pull back quickly with the needle still hooked to the str., as everything got tight something broke causing him to sling shot away from the str. While he was trying to get control back, the 50 ft long line attached to his side pull whipped up into his top rotors causing destruction to the helicopter and crashed to the ground. Emergency personal was contacted immediately, two T&D employees including myself were first on scene. The emergency shut off switch was pulled and the engine was shut down. ~~to~~ We removed the pilot and began CPR until emergency personal arrived.

3/15/17

all O

[REDACTED]
Wire superintendant

3-14-17

Helicopter was trying to hook the needle in the arm pit
of the tower to pass the needle. Attempted 3 or 4 times it kept
slipping off rail on the last attempt the Helicopter went straight
up & down in a vertical position pilot tried to correct it
and starting pulling away from tower needle hung up on edge
of tower. The eye ripped off of the needle causing
the long line to catapult at which time he had gained
control of the Helicopter until the line snagged around
and got tangled up in the blades shearing them off causing
the Helicopter to crash.

Wade Moyer

[REDACTED]

Operator
watching the road
Administered CPR

On March 14 around 3:40pm I was flowing the Helicopter. The Helicopter was threading the needle though STP. 39 when I heard a loud breaking noise at that time I see the needle crashing to the ground.. while the ~~pilot~~ pilot tried to control the Helicopter the long line still attach to him whipping up and around in to the rotors causing him to crash to the ground. I then rush over to the Helicopter to shut the engine off and to help the pilot. March. 15 2017 Jerry Sims

[Redacted]
for mem
watching the dock line

After a 20 min break in pulling the center phase
Howard had taken off 5-10 mins prior
I heard Howard grunt or scream over the radio I
looked up saw the helicopter at a tail low attitude
falling, half the tail boom was missing pieces of main
rotor blades departing aircraft as it fell

Jumped out of the truck rolled up fuel hose dialed
911 gave all pertinent info to 911 operator (where, when)
as I drove to crashsite, Arrived at the crashsite
~~tot~~ 3 T+D/ECS employees were there, they had
pulled Howard from wreckage and were performing
CPR Sheriff arrived on scene asked how long
CPR had been going on response 5 mins
Ambulance showed up 2-5 mins later
5ish min after that Howard ^{was being} carried to
the ambulance

Statement written by:
[REDACTED]